REMARKS

Prior to the issuance of a first action, and after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, filed January 24, 2005, and Personal Interview (February 24, 2005), Applicants respectfully request that new claims 26 and 27 be added to the present application. Claims 1-27 are now present in this application, with claims 1, 8, 26, and 27 being independent.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants thank the Examiner for participating in a personal interview on February 24, 2005. In the personal interview, the Examiner agreed not to make a first Office Action final rejection with regard to the pending claims. Further, he agreed that the filing of independent claims, which more clearly reflected that which is discussed in the specification would overcome the prior art previously cited (i.e., Gloudeman and/or Fraley). Accordingly, Applicants have filed such claims (26 and 27) by way of this Preliminary Amendment. Support for new claims 26 and 27 may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0019] and [0020] of the Substitute Specification.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-27 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.
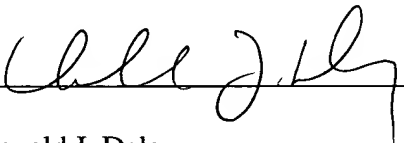
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the

number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By _____

Donald J. Daley
Reg. No. 34,313

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